

Margery Mayer, contralto

Performance Record

Opera Companies:

- NYCO – New York City Opera Company –
15 roles & 65 performances over 10 year period.
(Seasons: 1946, '49, '50, '51, '52, '53, '54, '55)
(Conductors: Halasz, Morel, Rosenstock, Rudel, Schippers, Serafin, Thomas)
- SCO – San Carlo Opera Company –
(Seasons: 1943, '44, '45, '50, '55)
(Conductors: Buckley, Peroni, Rescigno, Schick)
- CCO – Chicago Civic (City) Opera Company –
(Seasons: 1938, '39, '41, '42, '45)
(Conds.: Cleva, E. Cooper, McArthur, Peroni, Weber)
- Other Select Opera Companies and Venues:
 - Pittsburgh Opera (*Karp*; 1954, '55, '56, '58)
 - Richmond Opera (*Moresco*; '59)
 - Empire State Music Festival (*Halasz*; '58)
 - Cleveland Musicarnival (*Kogan*; '58)
 - Montreal Opera Guild (*E. Cooper*; '58)
 - Grant Park Opera (*Leinsdorf*; '49)
 - NYCC Music & Drama (*Menotti* directing; '48-'49)

Début in 1946 in Puccini's *Madama Butterfly* (with Camilla Williams)
1st Performances: *Madama Butterfly* ('46), *Eugene Onegin* ('46), *Love for Three Oranges* ('49), *Meistersinger* ('50), *Falstaff* ('54) & *Golden Slippers* ('55);
1st Productions: *Dybbuk* ('51) and *Amahl and the Night Visitors* ('52);
United States Premiere: Wolf-Ferrari - *The Four Ruffians* ('51).

Début Tour of 1943; then pan-USA / Canadian Tour of 1944 to '45 [1]
Miss Mayer received consistently positive acclaim for her singing and acting in more than 70 leading role performances as Carmen, Amneris & Azuchena.

Début in 1938 in Offenbach's *Tales of Hoffman* (with Lawrence Tibbett)
At age 20, Mayer sang in six operas her début season, including *Lakmé*, duet with Lily Pons, and Walküre sister (Schwertleite) to Flagstad's Brünnhilde.

Wagner - *Lohengrin* (Ortrude) with Steber, *The Mask Ball* (Ulrica)
Bizet - *Carmen*; Verdi - *Il Trovatore* (Azucena) with Farrell
Pizzetti - *Murder in the Cathedral* in Carnegie Hall (US Premiere)
Douglas - *Ballad of Baby Doe* (Augusta), 7 performances with Sills
Verdi - *Falstaff* (Dame Quickly) in Her Majesty's Theatre
Puccini - *Madame Butterfly* (Suzuki) with Williams (130,000 attended)
Menotti - *The Medium* (Mme Flora), 10 performances; Bdway revival

Symphony Orchestra Soloist:

- New York Philharmonic (*Mitropoulos*; '58)
- Buffalo Symphony Orchestra (*Steinberg*, '53)
- Houston Symphony & Chorus (*Kurtz*, '49)
- Fort Wayne Symphony (*Buketoff*, '49)
- Chicago Symphony Ensemble (*Hindemith*, '45)
- Chicago Symphony Orchestra & Chorus (*Defaux*, '45)
- Montreal Symphony (*Pelletier*, '44)

Strauss - *Elektra* – 2 performances in Carnegie Hall
Verdi - *Requiem* – in Kleinhans Music Hall
Beethoven - *Ninth Symphony*
Honegger - *La Danse des Morts* (US Premiere)
Hindemith - *Die Junge Magd* (composer conducting)
Beethoven - *Ninth Symphony* – 2 performances in Orchestra Hall
Bach - *St. Matthew Passion* in Her Majesty's Theatre

Television/Radio Opera Broadcasts:

- ABC Television "Omnibus" Opera Series ('57)
- NBC "Television Opera Theatre" (*Adler*, '57)
- NBC "Television Opera Theatre" ('51)
- WOR "Opera Theatre" at the Longacre Theater ('52)
- NBC "Serenade To America" (*Katims, Pelletier* '45, '46)
- WGN-Mutual "Theater of the Air" (*Weber*, '38, '39)

Douglas *Ballad of Baby Doe* (Mama McCourt) - TV premiere
Prokofiev *War and Peace* (Matriosha) - TV premiere
Puccini *The Cloak "Il Tabarro"*, (La Frugola) - TV premiere
Verdi *Il Trovatore* (Azuchena); Strauss *Der Rosenkavalier* (Octavian)
Soloist on six broadcasts; Arias and Songs with NBC Symphony
Wagner *Lohengrin* (Ortrude) & Massenet *Samson et Delila* (Delila)

Pops, Stage, Radio and Hymn Shows:

- Buffalo Pops Orchestra (*Solomen*, '53)
- Radio City Music Hall Stage Show ('51)
- Radio City Music Hall Holiday Pageant ('50, '51)
- WOR "Let's Go To the Opera" (*Sherman* '46)
- Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra & Male Chorus ('44)
- WGN-Mutual "Hymns Of All Churches" ('39 – '43)

Featured soloist: Arias from *Carmen* and Songs (recorded)
Staged Scenes from Bizet's *Carmen* (50 stage shows)
Soloist for *Glory of Easter* "Komenoi Ostrow" (2 seasons; 150 shows)
Friml *Huguette's Waltz*; Flotow *Martha*: Spinning Wheel Quartet
Featured soloist: Brahms *Alto Rhapsody* & Songs (recorded) [2]
Professional choral soloist; coast-to-coast broadcasts each weekday

¹ The 8 month 1944 – 1945 tour of San Carlo Opera traversed the East Coast, Canada, the US West Coast then returning via the heartland of the United States culminating with a two week stand in New York City. During this tour, Miss Mayer performed Carmen 37 times, Amneris 8 times, and Azucena 6 times.

² Recorded to "Magic Disks" (also called V-Disks for Victory) which enabled delayed broadcast to armed forces abroad during World War II.

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Performance Record

Note: This matrix inventories the Miss Mayer's opera roles, by major company (e.g., CCO is Chicago Civic Opera) plus "Other" companies or venues. Focused only on opera, it does not include Mayer's performances in oratorios, recitals, orchestra appearances or stage shows such as Radio City Music Hall, e.g., where she performed more than 50 showings of staged scenes from *Carmen*.

#	Operas	Composer	Role	Total	CCO	SCO	NYCO	Other	Notable
1	Carmen	Bizet	Carmen	46	1	38	6	1	<i>w Martinelli '45</i>
2	Carmen	Bizet	Mércèdes	6	4	1		1	<i>w Swarthout '39</i>
3	Louise	Charpentier	Gertrude	3	3				<i>w Grace Moore '39</i>
4	Lakmé	Delibes	Mallika	1	1				<i>w Lily Pons '38</i>
5	Ballad of Baby Doe	Douglas	Augusta	7				7	<i>w Sills, Cassel, Krebs '58</i>
6	Ballad of Baby Doe	Douglas	Mrs. McCourt	1				1	ABC "Omnibus" TV Premiere '57
7	Martha	Flotow	Nancy	1		1			
8	Andrea Chenier	Giordano	Contessa di Coigny	2			2		
9	Faust	Gounod	Siébel	7	4	3			<i>w Pinza '37; Kipnis '42</i>
10	Roméo et Juliette	Gounod	Stephano	2	2				
11	Hänsel und Gretel	Humperdink	Sandman	1	1				
12	Cavalleria Rusticana	Mascagni	Lola	3	1	2			
13	Amahl & the Night Visitors	Menotti	Mother	3			1	2	NYCO 1st Production '52
14	The Medium	Menotti	Mme. Flora (Baba)	10				10	Broadway Revival '48-'49
15	L'Amore dei Tre Re	Montemezzi	Hand-maiden	1	1				
16	The Marriage of Figaro	Mozart	Marchelina	2			2		
17	The Tales of Hoffman	Offenbach	Nicklausse	3	3				Chicago Opera Début '38
18	The Tales of Hoffman	Offenbach	The Mother	3			3		
19	Murder in the Cathedral	Pizzetti	2nd Corifea	1				1	US Premiere '58
20	The Love for Three Oranges	Prokofiev	Clarissa	13			13		NYCO 1st Performance '49
21	Il Tabarro	Puccini	La Frugola	1				1	NBC Opera Theatre TV Premiere '52
22	Madama Butterfly	Puccini	Suzuki	16			10	6	NYCO Début '46
23	Tosca	Puccini	Shepherd Boy	3	2	1			
24	Samson et Delila	Saint-Saens	Delila	2				2	Nationwide Radio Broadcast '39
25	Elektra	Strauss	1st Magd	2				2	NY Phil. (Mitropoulos), Carnegie '58
26	The Dybbuk	Tamkin	Elderly Woman	5			5		NYCO 1st Production '51
27	Eugene Onegin (<i>in Russian</i>)	Tchaikovsky	Olga	2			2		NYCO 1st Performance '46
28	The Golden Slippers	Tchaikovsky	Solocha	2			2		NYCO 1st Performance '55
29	War and Peace	Tchaikovsky	Matriosha	1				1	NBC Opera Theatre TV Premiere '57
30	Aida	Verdi	Amneris	30	1	20	8	1	<i>w Treigle '53</i>
31	Falstaff	Verdi	Dame Quickly	3			2	1	NYCO 1st Performance '54
32	Il Trovatore	Verdi	Azucena	20	3	13		4	<i>w Warren '45; w Farrell '60</i>
33	Otello	Verdi	Emilia	2	1			1	<i>w Martinelli '39</i>
34	Rigoletto	Verdi	Maddalena	8	3	3	2		<i>w Tibbett '42</i>
35	The Masked Ball	Verdi	Ulrica	2				2	Pittsburgh Opera (Karp) '55
36	Die Meistersinger	Wagner	Magdalena	5			5		NYCO 1st Performance '50
37	Die Walküre	Wagner	Schwertleite	2	2				<i>w Kipnis and Manske '38 w Flagstad and Bampton '39</i>
38	Lohengrin	Wagner	Ortrude	3				3	<i>w Steber '54</i>
39	The Four Ruffians	Wolf-Ferrari	Margarita	2			2		US Premiere '51
			OPERA ROLLS:	39	16	9	15	18	
			PERFORMANCES:	227	33	82	65	47	